

# ecoNews — Wire —

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**November 24, 2004**

For immediate release

- 1. Media advisory: Bee Rite Tire cleanup to begin Tuesday**
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY: BEE RITE TIRE CLEANUP TO BEGIN TUESDAY**

RHODES — The DNR will announce the start of cleanup activities at one of Iowa's last large scrap tire sites with a press conference in Rhodes on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 1:30 p.m.

The cleanup will remove and process approximately 700,000 tires at the Bee Rite Tire Disposal site in Rhodes and another 5,000 tires in State Center. The removed tires will primarily be processed into fuel and playground surface materials.

The media and public are invited to attend the press conference. The Bee Rite Tire Disposal site is located at 208 East Walnut Street in Rhodes.

The DNR has cleaned up more than 10 million tires from more than 100 illegal sites since 1998.

"Scrap tires serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes carrying the West Nile virus, are an eyesore, and a potential health and environmental risk if a fire breaks out," said Jeff Geerts, tire program manager at the DNR. "It's very important that all tire stockpiles be cleaned up and that Iowans properly dispose of scrap tires."

A large fire occurred at the Rhodes site in December 2001. Subsequent enforcement actions by the DNR and the Iowa Attorney General's office resulted in a consent order, judgment and decree issued in June 2004. Bee Rite Disposal and its officers were issued a \$1.5 million penalty as part of the consent order.

Those who will be present as the cleanup activities commence on Tuesday afternoon include:

- Liz Christiansen, Deputy Director of the Iowa DNR;
- Polly Granzow, Iowa Representative;
- Danny Clement, Mayor of Rhodes;

- John Kunc, Marshall County Planning and Zoning Administrator and Economic Development Director; and
- Mark Maust, Vice President of Midwest Operations at Greenman Technologies.

**For more information, contact Jeff Geerts, at (515) 281-8176.**

**Note to editors: Digital photos of the Bee Rite tire site are available by calling Jill Cornell at (515) 281-0879.**

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## **DNR WINS \$300,000 EPA GRANT TO MAKE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA MORE ACCESSIBLE**

DES MOINES — The Iowa DNR has received a \$300,000 grant to continue its work on data automation that allows the public easy access to environmental information.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded the state implementation grant as part of the EPA's nationwide Environmental Information Exchange Network. The network will improve the way states communicate environmental data to the EPA and make data more accessible for the public. The EPA grant will help the DNR develop Exchange Network connections, nodes and data flows.

In addition to automated data flows, the DNR has created a Web site called the Facility Explorer, which gives Iowans convenient access to environmental information by placing data in one online database, accessible at <http://facilityexplorer.iowadnr.com>.

“The exciting thing about this Web application is that we are opening the door for a whole new level of access to environmental data,” said Gail George, an environmental specialist with the DNR. “For the first time, in one stop, people will be able to find out what is nearby and get the whole environmental picture, instead of one permit at a time. Although we are starting with just two programs, the foundation is now in place to add the rest.”

Information for facilities with air quality and solid waste permits is currently available online with the Facility Explorer.

Information on facilities with permits in the following programs will be available by the end of 2006:

- Water supply
- Animal feeding operations
- Contaminated sites
- Underground storage tanks
- Wastewater
- Private wells
- Emergency response spills

In addition to basic facility information, the following information is also planned to be added over the next two or three years:

- Permits and regulatory status
- Inspections and program violations
- Complaint investigations and violations
- Enforcement actions

**For more information, contact Gail George at (515) 281-8928.**

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## **DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

DES MOINES — The DNR took the following enforcement actions between September and October 2004, unless otherwise noted. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Rolph of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

- Leland Heisdorffer, of Sigourney, was ordered to cease improper disposal of solid waste, to stop open burning, to remove and legally dispose of remaining solid waste on the property and to provide documentation of legal disposal of the waste. Heisdorffer was also ordered to cease the demolition or renovation of mobile homes, and to pay a \$10,000 penalty. The order has been appealed.
- Donald Hopp, of Glenwood, was ordered to cease illegal disposal of solid waste, remove all illegally disposed waste and dispose the waste at a proper facility, to provide documentation of proper disposal and to pay a \$2,200 penalty. The order has been appealed.
- Jerry Bravard, of Boone, was ordered to comply with all storm water permit requirements, to obtain coverage under DNR general storm water permit number two, pay all current and past fees due since 2002, and pay a \$4,000 penalty. The order is in regard to a housing development in Boone. The order has been appealed.
- Walter's Investments International, Inc., d.b.a. Walters Homes Ltd., of Urbandale, and David Walters, of Des Moines, were ordered to comply with all storm water permit requirements, including implementation of an adequate pollution prevention plan, installation and maintenance of adequate erosion control facilities and practices, and inspection and record keeping; and to pay a \$10,000 penalty. The order is in regard to development of the Scenic Point Subdivision in Indianola. The order was taken in August.
- The City of Blanchard was ordered to eliminate all illegal on-site wastewater discharges, install a centralized sewer system and provide an adequate waste disposal system. The order was issued in June and not appealed.

- Doug Sweeny, of Sutherland, was ordered to submit an updated manure management plan (MMP) and annual compliance fee, and pay a \$750 penalty. The order is in regard to failure to submit an updated MMP and fee for a facility in O'Brien County.
- Koenen Dairy, Inc., d.b.a. Koenen Beef and Swine, and Greg Koenen, of Hawarden, were ordered to submit a complete updated manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$1,500 penalty. The order is in regard to failure to timely submit an MMP for a facility in Sioux County.
- Steve Bouchard, of Marcus, was ordered to submit a complete updated manure management plan (MMP) and fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regard to failure to submit an MMP for a facility in Cherokee County. The order has been appealed.

### **Consent Orders**

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- Ray Zellmer, of Wiota, agreed to a consent order regarding illegal dumping and burning of solid waste, and agreed to pay a penalty of \$1,000. The penalty has been paid. All other aspects of the original order remain in effect.
- Country Terrace Mobile Home Park, of Ames, agreed to an administrative consent order regarding discharges at its wastewater treatment facility. Country Terrace agreed to submit a report from its engineer certifying that all wastewater treatment systems in the mobile home park are in proper working order, and to pay a \$4,000 penalty. A payment schedule for the penalty has been agreed upon, and a report was submitted on Nov. 15, 2004 from the facility's engineer stating that the facility is in proper repair and working order.
- The City of Nora Springs agreed to an amended order regarding its wastewater treatment facility. As outlined in the original order, the city has submitted engineering plans for alternative disinfection facilities, and a construction permit has been issued for the project. The amended order extends the completion of construction deadline from April 1, 2005 to July 1, 2005. Existing disinfection facilities are required to be properly operated in the interim period.
- The City of Sutherland agreed to an amended administrative order regarding improvements at its wastewater facility with a new compliance schedule for construction projects. All other aspects of the original order remain in effect. The penalty from the original order has been paid.
- Greg DeBoer and G and S Farms, of Little Rock, agreed to a payment schedule for the \$1,500 penalty assessed in an earlier administrative order.

- Holcim (US) Inc., of Mason City, agreed to an administrative consent order and will properly program, operate and maintain its Continuous Emissions Monitoring System for measuring sulfur dioxide emissions, comply with air quality construction permit conditions, timely report excess emissions and to pay a \$8,000 penalty. The penalty has been paid.

**For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131 or [Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Jessie.Rolph@dnr.state.ia.us).**